



# ANIAKCHAK NATIONAL MONUMENT

Subsistence Resource Commission

P.O. Box 7, King Salmon, AK 99613

Minutes were chair certified for accuracy on November 12, 2024 by John Christensen Jr.

October 28, 2024

## Minutes: October 28, 2024

### 1. **Call to order/confirmed quorum:**

- Called to order at 10:10 am. Roll call: John Christensen, Colleen Jones were present initially. Scott Anderson joined around 10:20, making quorum. Neither Ronald Lind nor Andrew Lind were present. Others attending: Mallory Zharoff, Mark Sturm, Suzanne Sanders, Jenya Anichtchenko, Dillon Patterson, Victoria Florey, Kim Jochum, Eva Patterson, Cody Larson, and Amy Vandervoort.

### 2. **Introductions**

### 3. **Superintendent's Welcome**

- Mark introduces himself and welcomes everyone.

### 4. **Review and approval of agenda**

### 5. **Set time and location for next meeting**

- February 11, 2025 (1:00 – 5:00 PM) with alternate of February 13, 2025 (1:00 – 5:00 pm).
- King Salmon Park office—potentially in person if weather allows.
- Note Bristol Bay RAC meeting is February 18-19, 2025.

### 6. **Public & Agency Comments**

- None.

### 7. **Approval of SRC meeting minutes from past meetings and information sessions.**

- John Christensen, Colleen Jones, and Scott Anderson voted to accept past meeting notes.

### 8. **SRC Chair and member reports**

- John Christensen: There's been a large amount of ptarmigan this year. For caribou, he has noticed that they haven't yet come down from the mountains, so the harvest for the fall hunt was minimal. There has been a lot of moose harvest this year, though. He reports good hunting in general.
- Colleen Jones: reports abundant harvest this year.
- Scott Anderson: Reports a lot of fowl sticking around and not leaving. He also reports harvesting of moose.

- John Christensen: Noted that the caribou season will open back up again in November and he anticipates more harvest.

#### 9. **Status of SRC membership and election of the chair**

- Currently board members are Andrew Lind (BB RAC), Ron Lind and Scott Anderson (Governor of Alaska), and Colleen Jones and John Christensen (Secretary of Interior)
- Discussion on possibility of getting a flier for SRC seats out to the public this winter. Something Katmai Park can work on getting together do distribute to garner interest from the public on filling seats.
- Mallory Zharoff: Asked the SRC members if they could help distribute the flier locally and they have agreed to help on that front.
- Currently there are four vacancies: two to be appointed by the Bristol Bay RAC, one by the Governor of Alaska, and one by the Secretary of Interior.
- Currently no application in for any of the seat vacancies, but everyone is aware there needs to be recruitment.
- Some discussion on networking opportunities followed.

#### 10. **Subsistence Coordinator's Report**

- Mallory Zharoff introduced herself and explained what she has been doing to get this meeting together.

#### 11. **(2025-2027) Fisheries Regulatory Proposals**

- Cody Larsen introduced himself to the commission and explained that BBNA has submitted these proposals. Also, requested someone to better speak on the history and function of SRC, and their role to take action or not.
- Eva Patton: Discussed how subsistence regulatory proposals go out for comment, which is very similar to Regional Advisory Councils. The SRC can take formal action on the proposals since they have met quorum today. They can either support, oppose, or suggest modification of proposal. The council can discuss the proposal and then vote on it. Afterward, Mallory will draft a letter to Federal Subsistence Board of your recommendation, which will be reviewed in February.
- Cody Larsen: Mentioned that many of these proposals are somewhat outdated and are not up to speed with state subsistence regulations. Some of these regulations were used to distinguish between commercial fishing and subsistence harvest in the past and have not been addressed or discussed since. His intent is to bring them to the forefront for discussion and review, and ultimately update them.
- **FP-25-09**
- FP-25-09 Proposal requests that the Bristol Bay Area allow the use of red colored keg or buoy for marking subsistence gear. OSM supported this proposal with a modification to remove color requirements of keg or buoy attached to subsistence gear consistent with State Regulations. Proposal was discussed among the commission and a motion to support OSM's modified version was elected.
- John Christensen: Mentioned it would be less burdensome on the subsistence users to worry about buoy color.
- **FP-25-10**

- FP-25-10 Proposal requests that Federal Subsistence Board remove the Bristol Bay area-wide closure to the taking of fish within 300 feet of the mouths of streams used by salmon. OSM supported this proposal with modification to allow the harvest of non-salmon fish species at the mouths of rivers, streams, and creeks and prohibit the harvest of salmon.
- Cody Larson: Discussed that many federally qualified subsistence users already harvest fish within 300 feet of streams and rivers, and it was his intent to try to make it legal to avoid future conflict.
- Eva Patton: Explained why OSM did not put salmon as a species that could be taken near streams and creeks, mainly due to conservation concerns.
- Commission members made a motion to support OSM's modified version of FP-25-10.
- John Christensen: Mentioned their reason to support this was that people already harvest near streams and creeks, and it would make it legal for those people.
- **FP-25-11**
- Mark Sturm: FP-25-11 requests that the Federal Subsistence Board allow for the taking of salmon with dip nets, beach seine and drift gillnets in the Bristol Bay area. OSM supports the proposal with modification to allow for use of dip nets and beach seine in the Bristol Bay area and not drift gill nets except to align current State and Federal regulations in the Lake Clark area.
- Cody Larsen: Mentioned that he thinks having a discussion on this proposal is good to have on record and understands it may take several years to refine the allowance of those harvest practices.
- Commission members were fine to have a discussion on proposal FP-25-11 and move on without further action.
- **FP-25-13**
- Cody Larsen: FP-25-13 proposal requests to repeal the 10-fathom length restriction of set gillnets in Federally managed waters in Egegik River. States that this regulation is a remnant of the commercial fishing district regulations that were in place until 2021.
- Eva Patton: OSM's justification for not supporting this proposal is, in part, due to the possibility of the set net extending to more than one half the width of the stream which is illegal.
- John Christensen: Asked if there was a motion to approve the proposal but hearing none, decided to move on to the next subject on agenda. No action was taken.
- **WP-24-01**
- Eva Patton: WP-24-01 proposal would allow for the sale of brown bear hides under Federal Subsistence hunting regulations, but the mechanism to do that would involve the State of Alaska issuing the permit for sale. The board decided to defer this proposal to explore options for Federal permitting system that would permit the sale of brown bear hides under subsistence regulation. Federal Board Meeting will have update at their meeting.
- **Unit 9E Moose**
- John Christensen: Asked if it was possible to remove the moose antler restriction on 9E, since they are the only ones in unit 9 that have that restriction.
- Amy Vandervoort: Mentioned that if the State did remove the antler restriction in 9E it would potentially cause an increase in moose harvest; partly due to the hunt being open to all Alaska residents. She mentioned she would be more than happy to help John Christensen with a Board of Game proposal, but to keep in mind that it will take several years because it is on a 3-year cycle.

- Amy Vandevoort: Discussed if you are Federally qualified subsistence user in Unit 9E hunting on federal land, the 50 inch or three brow tines antler restriction does not apply.

## 12. Agency Reports

### *ADF&G*

#### (Amy Vandevoort)

- This year's harvest of moose was 77 and last year's was 75. Notes that they are starting to reach a peak similar to what they saw in the early 2000s year. The average moose harvested prior to these two years would be around 50 moose, which means it is increasing.
- They flew down to Port Moller and surveyed their way back up and found just over 2,200 caribou with a survey ratio of 29 calves per 100 cows. The herd should continue to grow. They don't get much harvest on the NAP herd. Last year's harvest was 43 total, 40 bulls and 3 cows. This year reported caribou is at 11 but that will hopefully change with this winter hunt. There is nothing planned with the NAP herd. The State wants to do capture work but are at a standstill because of drug production shortage.
- Brown bear hunt this last fall and spring reported 209 in 9E.

### *National Park Service*

#### Natural Resources Report (Suzanne Sanders)

- Working with the communities of Kokhanok and Igiugig regarding the caribou that reside near the Kukaklek Shelf. Looking at monitoring that herd and doing some collaring of some individuals starting in 2026 if funding is available.

#### Cultural Resources Report (Evguenia Anichtchenko)

- Two programs coming up in 2025. First is seeking a person to work with the Aniakchak Bay archaeological selection project for one to two years with a pay rate of 22.50 an hour. They are looking for someone with some specific knowledge base but willing to train people if they are interested. Second program will be elder/youth visit to Anchorage to view and discuss artifacts from Aniakchak Bay area and the traditional subsistence way of life. Travel cost paid.
- About ten years ago, the park built 200 feet of road in Brooks Camp, but it did not go through the steps of compliance or Tribal Consultation. This August the park was able to remove the 200 feet of road and restore it in a manner that was acceptable to Katmai's tribal partners.
- Katmai Park is working with Kokhanok and Igiugig to help facilitate access to culturally significant traditional ATV/ORV trails in Katmai Preserve. These traditional routes will go through a number of compliance steps, and it may take several years to complete.
- Culture camp was held in May and June with several communities involved. Hands on archeology, Valley of 10,000 Smokes hike, and meeting NPS staff in Brooks Camp were a few of the events for Culture camp.
- There is also a Indigenous Place Name Project partnership with BBNC, specifically for the Brooks Camp area.

#### Alaska Regional Office Report (Dillon Patterson)

- Dillon discussed the 2024 wildlife rule regarding two specific topics on national preserve land. This rule went into effect on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024. It prohibits bear baiting on preserve lands under sport hunting regulations and clarifies the only time a firearm is allowed is when the animal has

already been trapped. This can include when an animal has broken free from a trap, or it has become unanchored.

- Eva Patton: Dillon and Victoria are leading the science and engineering program with interns from last summer. They are recruiting students from native science and engineering program to intern. Maija Lukin hired a new tribal liaison to have more outreach to tribes and support their involvement in Federal Subsistence Management Proposals.

### **13) Public & Agency Comments**

- Mark Sturm: The Park is already engaging in conversations around traditional and customary access issues associated with Katmai Preserve but would like to extend that conversation of co-stewardship opportunities to other areas along the peninsula. Hoping to work with other tribes on co-management of subsistence resources. Asking the chair and other members of SRC to potentially meet in King Salmon after the February 11<sup>th</sup> meeting for further discussion on this topic.
- Mark Sturm: A proposal came from an outside paleontology researcher to have the Aniakchak National Monument dedicated a Natural Landmark. Essentially, this researcher has found significant record of dinosaur/forest fossils. Aniakchak National Monument is crucial to the understanding of life and climate changes millions of years ago. This area has a high density of dinosaur fossil record. This proposal is in the works, and we would welcome any feedback.
- Mallory Zharoff: It would be good to have a chair alternate for the upcoming Chair Workshop in December since John Christensen cannot attend.
- John Christensen: Thought it would be a good idea to have an alternate to attend. Colleen Jones was not able to attend, but Scott Anderson volunteered his time for the workshop.

### **14) Adjourn**

- John Christensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:32 pm